

Local Government Participation in Census 2000 Geographic Programs



Local government participation in upcoming Census 2000 programs will help to ensure an accurate count. The success of Census 2000 depends on it. Billions of dollars in federal and state funds are distributed based on census counts to communities each year for a variety of locally-administered programs. It is estimated that each housing unit is worth \$10,000 in federal and state funds in the decade following the census.

Several opportunities to participate will soon be available. Local government entities should participate in every one of them. Most often the Census Bureau mailings will be sent to the highest elected official in each area. It is important that data users are aware of these programs and that information gets directed to the right person.

Boundary and Annexation Survey

The Census Bureau has already mailed out maps for the 1998 Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS). These were sent to the highest elected official of each jurisdiction. Maps are to be updated to reflect revisions to municipal boundaries, checked for accuracy and returned within 15 days. This survey will be repeated in January 1999 and January 2000 to reflect subsequent changes in boundaries and features. Any new annexations need to be completed by December 31, 1999 in order to be reflected as official boundaries in Census 2000. Correct boundaries are critical for local governments to ensure that your jurisdiction receives credit for the housing units within your boundaries.

Local Update of Census Addresses

Because of recent legislation, the Census Bureau will, for the first time, be authorized to share address lists with local jurisdictions. Local government entities will be asked to sign a confidentiality agreement to ensure that the census addresses are not released or used for any

Census Addresses (LUCA) program, the Bureau will distribute these address lists to local governments for review and update. These address lists will be used as the basis for distributing census questionnaires. To participate in the LUCA program, it is essential that local jurisdictions:

- ! Respond to a letter from the Census Bureau and designate a local contact to receive the addresses. The Bureau sent letters and registration forms to the highest elected officials and local contacts in early 1998.
- ! Attend a LUCA workshop held by the Census Bureau.
- ! Sign the confidentiality agreement.

Participating government entities will receive:

- ! Summary of housing units by 1990 Census block
- ! Summary of housing units by 2000 collection block
- ! Electronic file or hard-copy listing of addresses by 2000 collection block
- ! Paper maps and/or TIGER/Line file

Participants will be requested to make corrections, additions and deletions to the address files and return them to the Bureau. In order to be accepted, any new addresses provided will be required to include certain information in a specified format including a Census 2000 collection block number and ZIP code. This process will occur during April-August 1998. Updates are to be completed and returned to the Bureau by October 1998.

Local entities who have not received the registration form for participation in the LUCA program should contact the Denver Regional Census Center, Geographic Programs at (303) 231-5050.

Statistical Areas Program

The Census 2000 Statistical Areas Program provides an opportunity for local governments to recommend changes to census geography including census tracts, block groups (BGs), census designated places (CDPs), and census county divisions (CCDs). This program is important because it determines the geographical unit for which the results of the census will be reported. Census tracts can be subdivided to account for population growth or adjusted to follow clearly

identifiable physical features. The optimum population threshold for a census tract is 4,000 persons. Block groups are sub-units of census tracts. Each census tract